

"DoD has to look at a much longer haul for what it wants in aerospace," Douglass continued. "Right now, we have absolutely no tactical air programs after 2008. There's a 16-year hiatus in DoD's plans for tactical aircraft; there's simply no way Boeing and Lockheed Martin are going to keep a workforce of tactical aircraft design engineers through a 16-year gap."

Wood noted that these shifts away from defense are already happening. "More than half the people who sat on my executive committee three years ago are now in the commercial part of their companies."

Miller stressed the importance of improving the government's usage of information technologies. "We need to be in a position where there is no difference

between all of the functions of government and doing those functions electronically. That's the way the commercial world is moving very quickly, and you all know that in your everyday lives. That is the way we hope we will have the government moving in the near future."

He noted that Americans expect Information Technology to reshape the public sector, as it is doing in the commercial sector, and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of virtually all government functions. He noted that progress is being made, citing in particular activities such as progress in reverse auctioning and the approval of the Navy-Marine Corps Internet. But he noted that many challenges still exist, including funding, privacy and security, equal access, and the development of a basic "E-gov" culture.

Douglass had particular praise for "the work Dave Oliver has done to get export license procedures squared away. There is no question that this is the most significant event in the past few years."

Oliver closed the conference by thanking the panelists and attendees for their insightful comments and questions. He said that the PEO/SYSCOM Commanders' conferences had been enormously helpful over the years in identifying issues and setting the agenda for improvement of the acquisition process.

Editor's Note: The author welcomes questions and comments on this article. Contact him at LReed@ida.org. For information on past or upcoming PEO/SYSCOM conferences or workshops, refer to the DSAC Web site at www.acq.osd.mil/dsac/.

ROBERT W. BALL



The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Press has received word of the death of Robert W. "Bob" Ball on Nov. 11. Bob had been a member of the publications staff at DSMC since July 1976, serving as Director of Publications from 1984 to 1993. In 1994, he became the first editor of *Acquisition Review Quarterly*, DAU's journal of defense acquisition. Bob retired to his native Tennessee on March 31, 1995, after 34 years of federal civilian service.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Interested DoD-Industry Personnel, DSMC Graduates, Faculty, Staff

The Capital Area Chapter, Defense Systems Management College Alumni Association (DSMCAA) sponsors monthly "brown bag" acquisition seminars on timely acquisition subjects, featuring experts in the subject area. Seminars are open to interested DoD personnel; DSMC graduates/alumni and faculty; and DoD contractor personnel, subject to prior notification of attendance. Seminars are normally scheduled on the fourth Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and are held at the following new location:

**ANSER, Inc.
Conference and Innovation Center
Suite 700
1550 Wilson Blvd.
Rosslyn, Va. 22209**

Individuals planning to attend a seminar should E-mail Tod Beatrice at beatrice@anser.org or call (703) 588-7747 no later than one work day prior to the seminar. If replying by voice mail, please provide your name, company/organization, and phone number.

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